GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1111
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
SWAMINATHAN COMMITTEE REPORT
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken on Swaminathan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps initiated so far regarding creation of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority and the time by which it will come in force ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)to(c): The Government has examined the report of the Task Force on Agricultural Biotechnology set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. On the basis of Interministerial consultations on the recommendations of the Task Force with various Ministries/ Departments, the Government has decided ten priorities for implementation. The details are enclosed in Annexure-I.

(d): As the creation of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA) involves complex issues which are of inter-ministerial nature, the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Annexure-I

Priorities for Agri-Biotechnology

1. Finalization of National Biotech Policy by the Department of Biotechnology.

2. Rationalization of approval process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as suggested by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan`s Task Force.

3. Release of Bt. Cotton varieties for North Zone.

4. Post-release monitoring to be started by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

5. Capacity building for post-release monitoring and training.

6. Public awareness campaign to be launched by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in association with State Agricultural Universities and other scientific organizations/institutes.

7. Finalizing combined strategy for arresting spread of non-approved Bt. Cotton seeds.

8. Developing the testing facilities for Genetically Modified seeds.

9. To finalize Action Plan for the components relating to Agri-biotechnology in the National Biotech Policy.

10. Identification of crops and traits for use of application of biotechnology.